

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2792

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, UR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG/USSR JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION - MEETING
OF CHEMICAL SPECIALTY GROUP

REF: BONN 6847

1. SUMMARY. DURING A RECENT MEETING OF THE
CHEMICAL SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE FRG/USSR JOINT
COMMISSION, THE SOVIETS URGED COOPERATION TO DEVELOP
METHANOL FOR DELIVERY TO THE FRG. GERMAN INDUSTRY
IS HESITANT ABOUT COMMITTING ITSELF TO ANY PROJECT.
THE GROUP ALSO AGREED TO EXCHANGE WASTE
WATER TREATMENT AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL EXPERTS TO
VISIT THE SODA AND POTASH INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CHEMICAL SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE FRG/USSR
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION HELD ITS 2ND ANNUAL
MEETING IN BONN ON APRIL 23 AND 24. THE SOVIET
DELEGATION WAS LED BY DEPUTY CHEMICAL MINISTER
OSIPENKO. A PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED ON MAY 2 BUT IT HAS
NOT YET BEEN RELEASED.

3. AN OFFICIAL IN THE FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY PROVIDED
US WITH THE FOLLOWING GENERAL BRIEFING ON THE MEETING
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AND THE CONTENTS OF THE PROTOCOL. HE SAID THE CHEMICAL

SPECIALTY GROUP WAS NOT PARTICULARLY ACTIVE AND HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD MEET AGAIN BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION NOW SCHEDULED FOR MOSCOW IN THE FALL OF 1974. IN FACT, THE PROTOCOL, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS VERY GENERAL IN NATURE, WOULD BE USED AS THE GROUP'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION.

4. OF MAJOR INTEREST TO THE SOVIETS IS PROMOTION OF PROJECTS TO EXPLOIT AND DELIVER LARGE QUANTITIES OF METHANOL TO THE FRG, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE. HE SAID THAT GERMAN INDUSTRY IS VERY HESITANT ABOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN ANY PROJECT INVOLVING THIS MATERIAL ON PRICE AND FINANCING GROUNDS, AND BECAUSE THE INDUSTRY IS NOT SURE HOW TO EXPAND THE USE OF METHANOL DUE TO ITS HAZARDOUS PROPERTIES. HE DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE MUCH IF ANY MOVEMENT IN THIS FIELD UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

5. IN TERMS OF LENGTH THE MAJOR PART OF THE PROTOCOL IS DEVOTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION QUESTIONS. ACCORDING TO A PRESS STATEMENT THE GROUP AGREED TO EXCHANGE EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IN THE SODA AND POTASH INDUSTRY.
HILLENBRAND

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